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OFW remittances surge 28% to $7.9B as more Pinoys leave for abroad

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Human rights agency to examine bodies of suspected carjackers

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Logging permit to Enrile firm illegal, says ex-gov

House clamors for ₱70-M pork back

'Hello Garci' probers find Palace cover-up

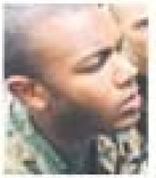


"GO, SMITH, GO:" US Marine Cpl. Daniel Smith was said to have done some drinking and dirty dancing with the Subic victim.

Draft report also bares oust-GMA conspiracy

THE HEADS OF FIVE House committees that conducted a joint inquiry into the "Hello Garci" scandal have concluded that Malacañang attempted to cover up the truth behind allegations President Macapagal-Arroyo stole last year's election.

'This is more difficult than Jalosjos case'





SUSPECTS: Lance Corporals Corey Burris (left) and Keith Silkwood

Kids take up arms as way out of poverty, study says

US needs 200,000 teachers yearly, says placement firm



TRIBUTE TO FALLEN COMRADE

WEATHER FORECAST

Al-Qaida funding Abus, RSM–witness

By Philip C. Tubeza

A CONFESSED TERRORIST WHOSE GROUP ALlegedly plotted bomb attacks in Metro Manila has admitted that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network was directly funding the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and had bankrolled the activities of his own group, the Rajah Solaiman Movement.

Troops capture 2 Abu Sayyaf camps

Bodies of 2 carjacking suspects to be examined

More Pinoys pessimistic, survey says

[illegible]

Logging permit to Enrile firm illegal, says ex-gov

Moratorium lifted

No exception

Rescind order

River systems

US needs . . .

Engineers, accountants, too

Pinoys have edge

500 teachers a year

Gonzales a 'spoiled brat,' say leftists

'Marcos funds spent lawfully'

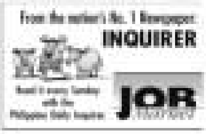


House clamors for ₱70-M pork back

Primary jurisdiction

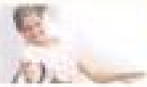
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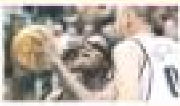




SPORTS







What's Inside



Bacolod comes alive for Games

BACOLOD CITY—THINGS ARE starting to perk up in this satellite host of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games where the biennial meet's first matches will be played.

[illegible]

Lopez promises impartial officiating in SEAG boxing

By Musong R. Castillo

[illegible]

‘Hello Garci’ probers find Palace cover-up



‘This is more difficult than Jalosjos case’



Legislative body to review VFA

Kids take up arms as way out of poverty, study says

Bungled encore: RP dancers miss out on golds

Streaking Giants seek to sustain run vs Kings



Joey Lina's surrender

IN HUDDLE

DLSZ cagebelles take WBL prep lead

The WORLD

France to extend emergency powers

PARIS—FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC'S government decided on Monday to ask parliament to extend emergency powers for three months to quell unrest which he said had caused a deep malaise.

Australia hit by mass labor protests

Strong quake hits Japan

Nuclear reactor may have been target – Australia

SYDNEY—ISLAMIC MILITANTS ARRESTED last week on charges of plotting a major terrorist bombing were caught by police near Australia's only nuclear reactor last year and underwent "jihad training" at outback camps west of Sydney, police alleged in documents released on Monday.

A police fact sheet submitted in court here also alleged that the spiritual leader of the 18 Muslims arrested in Sydney and Melbourne urged his followers to unleash "maximum damage" as part of a holy war.

The 20-page document, tendered in court on Friday but not released to the public until Monday, said three of the 18 had been stopped by police acting suspiciously near the Lucas Heights research reactor in suburban Sydney.

The men said they were in the area to ride a trail bike that was in the back of their car, but when questioned separately gave differing accounts of their activities, police said.

Police later found that a lock on a gate to a reservoir on the grounds of the facility had recently been cut, the document said.

The government's Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (Ansto), which operates the Sydney reactor, played down any threat.

Ansto issued a statement saying the area where the men's car was noticed "is regularly used by the public for trail bike riding and bushwalking" and that security agencies at the time did not see the trio as a threat.

It also said the fencing that had been cut near the reservoir was hundreds of meters from the reactor and not part of the Ansto facility.

Police and security agents detained the 18 before dawn on November 8 in the country's biggest counter-terrorism operation.

All were Australian-born or naturalized citizens. Officials accused them of plotting a "catastrophic" act of terrorism, although no precise targets were alleged.

The arrests heightened security fears across Australia and sparked an extraordinary terrorism alert Monday in the third largest city, Brisbane. *AFP*

WorldBriefs

6 dead in Pakistan blast

KARACHI—A car bomb exploded outside an outlet of a US fast food chain in Pakistan's largest city Karachi on Tuesday, killing at least six people and wounding several others, police and rescue workers said. The vehicle blew up outside a KFC restaurant at about 8:40 a.m. (0340 GMT), Karachi police chief Mushtaq Shah told AFP. "It was a high-intensity explosion and its noise was heard in several parts of the city. It appears that the KFC was the target," Shah said. Six bodies were removed from the scene, according to Muhammad Sabri, a senior official from the Edhi Welfare Trust rescue group. The fast food outlet and a nearby bank branch were destroyed. Many other vehicles were on fire and the windows of neighboring buildings were shattered, an AFP correspondent said. Police quickly sealed off the area around the site, which is close to the upmarket Sheraton and Pearl Continental hotels. *AFP*

Bird flu outbreak reported

HONG KONG—An outbreak of bird flu has been reported in China's remote western province of Xinjiang where authorities have culled more than 200,000 birds, a Hong Kong newspaper reported. The outbreak in two counties neighboring Urumqi, the provincial capital, was discovered on Nov. 11 when 1,400 chickens were found dead, the Ta Kung Pao newspaper reported on its Web site. Experts from the agriculture department were sent to the area on Nov. 12 to investigate and samples from the dead chickens were sent to Beijing for tests. The newspaper gave no other details. China is battling to control several outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 virus in poultry. *Reuters*

Saddam deputy hunted

DUR, Iraq—US and Iraqi forces searched the home village of Saddam Hussein's fugitive number two, Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri, Monday after commanders voiced doubts over the credibility of reports of his death. Troops went house to house in the village of Dur after the US-led coalition said it was not convinced by an announcement by the outlawed Baath party that the ousted regime's most senior fugitive had died of cancer. "More than 600 Iraqi and US soldiers closed off access to the village at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) and started to search houses," Iraqi army Sergeant Khalil al-Duri told AFP. "Searches began in the Mawashta district which is home to relatives of Izzat Ibrahim," he added. Residents said troops told them they were investigating reports that Ibrahim's body had been secretly brought to the village for burial. *AFP*

Bin Laden's brod testifies

PARIS—A half brother of Osama bin Laden testified as a witness in a long-running probe investigation into suspected money laundering, his lawyer said. Swiss citizen Yeslam Binladin, who spells his name differently from the terror leader, was questioned Monday about a US$300 million transfer to Pakistan allegedly made by one of his companies in 2000, a judicial official said, speaking anonymously because he is not authorized to release information about the case. "Mr. Binladin knows nothing about this transaction," one of his lawyers, Henri Leclerc, said. Leclerc said the account in question did not belong to Binladin and that his client had no connection to the company involved. Binladin told the French judge that two of his brothers had created the account at Swiss bank UBS to collect and redistribute family funds—and Osama bin Laden was among the beneficiaries, judicial officials said. *AP*



PRINCESS Sayako and Yoshiki Kuroda REUTERS

Japanese princess weds commoner

TOKYO—JAPANESE PRINCESS SAYAKO, THE emperor's only daughter, quit the world's oldest monarchy and married a commoner Tuesday, setting out for a new life at age 36 as a middle-class housewife.

Sayako, who had insisted for years she would wait to marry, walked several steps behind the groom to a specially built Shinto altar in a prestigious Tokyo hotel in a reverse fairy-tale that has been closely followed across Japan.

Wearing a simple Western-style white dress and a single-strand pearl necklace, Sayako exchanged vows and shared a ceremonial glass of sake wine with Yoshiki Kuroda, a 40-year-old urban planner. Sayako quit her job as a part-time bird researcher and, under a now controversial tradition, loses her imperial status by marrying a commoner.

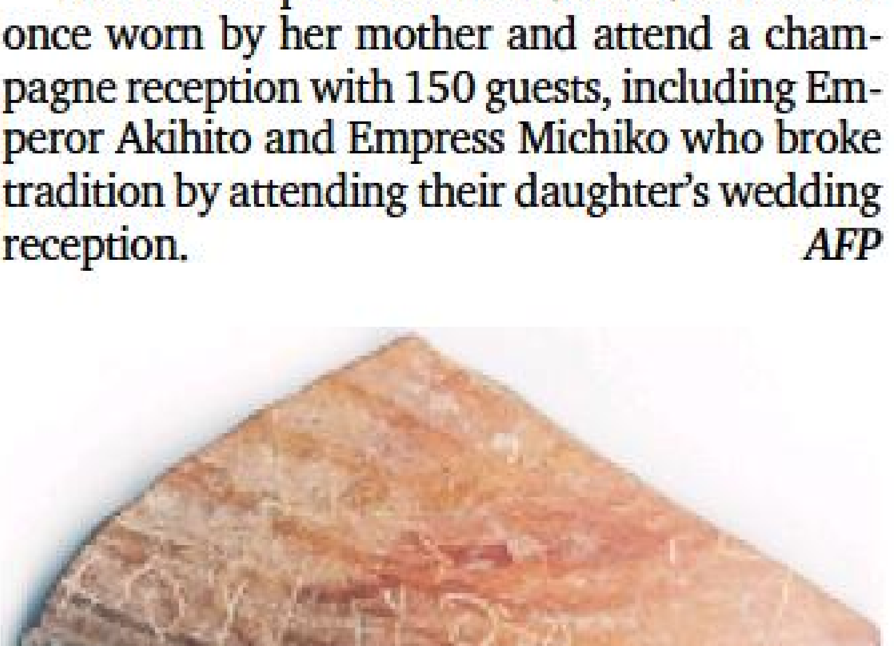
She acknowledged she had only a remote idea about her new life in a rented home in middle-class Tokyo. "I was very glad that the emperor and empress think that this new life is not a total change but an extension of my life so far," Sayako said in a five-minute press conference with her new husband.

"I would like to start a new life as a member of the Kuroda family by learning various things," she said.

Her husband said: "While respecting each other's views, I would like to make a quiet home where you can feel at ease." The princess is the first Japanese royal woman in modern times to wed in her 30s. It mirrors the trend in Japan, which is struggling to counter a declining birthrate as more young people choose to put off families for the sake of their careers and lifestyles.

The wedding was not accompanied by the grand, public ceremonies seen for former career diplomat Masako Owada's wedding to Crown Prince Naruhito in 1993.

The former princess later donned a kimono once worn by her mother and attend a champagne reception with 150 guests, including Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko who broke tradition by attending their daughter's wedding reception. *AFP*



THIS shard of pottery is believed to carry a Semitic inscription of the name of Goliath. REUTERS

Archaeologists find Goliath's name on artifact

RAMAT GAN, ISRAEL—AN ISRAELI RESEARCHER said he has made a Goliath of a find—the first archaeological evidence suggesting the biblical story of David slaying the Philistine giant actually took place.

A shard of pottery unearthed in a decade-old dig in southern Israel carried an inscription in early Semitic style spelling "Alwat and "Wlt," likely Philistine renderings of the name Goliath, said Aren Maeir, who directed the excavation.

"This is a groundbreaking find," he said of the rust-colored ceramic. "Here we have very nice evidence the name Goliath appearing in the Bible in the context of the story of David and Goliath... is not some later literary creation."

Maeir, head of the archaeology department at Bar-Ilan University near Tel Aviv, told Reuters that his excavators found the shard, possibly part of a bowl, about two meters underground at Tell es-Shafi. The mound where the dig took place is widely believed to be the site of the ancient city of Gath, which the Bible calls Goliath's hometown.

The biblical story of the epic Philistine giant's defeat at the hands of a much smaller David, who went on to become king of Israel, has long been a popular metaphor for the triumph of good over evil against all odds.

The specimen, from about 900 BC, isn't old enough to have belonged to Goliath, himself—believed to have lived around 1,000 BC, Maeir said. But he added: "It is the first time in the land of Israel that we have (found) the name Goliath, or a name like Goliath. I haven't found Goliath's skeleton with the hole in the center of his forehead, but it's the first archaeological evidence form a Philistine site which lends strong credibility" to the story, the US-born researcher said. *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION



Drunk with power

EDITORIAL

Filipino citizenship becoming very cheap

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Reform

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Samar forests used as political trade-off

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

Coming of age

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

So much history in one hospital

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Online libraries

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Google

Online libraries

"Virtual photocopying"

Dead tongues soon

LETTERS

Who are the real meddlers in our domestic affairs?

Taxing the religious organizations

The truth in opposition's mind



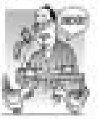
Across the NATION

Mine spill no accident, workers tell probe team

AN INDEPENDENT TEAM investigating the spill of wastes from the Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s mining site in Rapu-Rapu, Albay received testimony from the mining firm's workers that the spill was not an accident.



2 cockpits bring battle to court



Martinez; 77



MOVING SCENE BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

An entrepreneur watches out for buyers from his mobile stall where he sells Christmas lanterns hoping to cash in on the approaching holiday season.

Slain radioman's kin say justice elusive

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—JUSTICE REMAINS ELUSIVE for slain Aklan broadcaster Herson "Boy" Hinolan a year after he was gunned down.

His family and colleagues yesterday called on the government to speed up the prosecution of the case as they commemorated his first death anniversary in Aklan and in Roxas City in Capiz.

"I have come to accept his death but a year after he was murdered, we see no resolution of the case in sight," said Hinolan's widow Aphrodite in a telephone interview.

Aphrodite led hundreds of her husband's supporters and colleagues who attended Mass at the Mary Immaculate Metropolitan in Roxas City yesterday.

She later proceeded to Hinolan's grave at the Divine Jesus Memorial Park along with close relatives and her husband's colleagues.

Hinolan, 38, died from his injuries on Nov. 15 last year two days after he was repeatedly shot as he was urinating near a carnival in the capital town of Kalibo, Aklan.

He was station manager of dyIN Bombo Radyo in Kalibo and hosted the station's morning program "Bombohanay Bigtime."

Hinolan was among the 13 journalists killed last year and the 69th since 1986. Most of the cases remain unsolved.

Regional State Prosecutor Domingo Laurea Jr. said the slow pace of the case was due to the various exchange of pleadings and motions filed by the parties.

The Aklan provincial prosecutor's office is conducting a reinvestigation of the case after Aphrodite and Hinolan's lawyer Napoleon Oducado questioned the March 3 resolution of assistant provincial prosecutor Apolinario Barrios, indicting Mayor Fred Arcenio of Lezo town in Aklan for homicide.

Oducado said there was "clear proof of treachery and evident premeditation" in Hinolan's killing that warranted a murder charge based on testimonies of witnesses Peter Melgar and Marjorie Icamina.

Melgar allegedly saw Arcenio running after Hinolan and repeatedly shooting the victim. Icamina claimed to have overheard an aide of the mayor talking about the plan to kill the broadcaster.

Arcenio, who is out on bail, has denied the accusations, saying he was in Lezo town, about 10 km from Kalibo, at the time Hinolan was shot.

On May 4, the Aklan Regional Trial Court Branch 2 suspended the arraignment of Arcenio and ordered the provincial prosecutor's office to reinvestigate the case.

Laurea said the Aklan provincial prosecutor's office had asked to be inhibited from the case.

In an order dated Oct. 18, Judge Ledelia Aragona-Biliran of RTC Branch 2 rejected Barrios' motion to inhibit from the case and ordered the provincial prosecutor's office to issue a resolution within 30 days upon receipt of the court order.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

'Ikik' in the time of bird flu threat

Sagada, Mt. Province

BOYS WILL BE BOYS BUT IF YOU WERE BORN IN Sagada, life would be a little more exciting. Sagada boys now running 30 years old or more remember spending nights in the dap-ay (sleeping quarters for men) massaging the toes of their elders with bamboo sticks. They played traditional games and learned rituals. In the cold months, they would go to mangibik.

Lanao Sur gov ordered suspended for graft



UN says kids recruited for combat in RP

DepEd: Class, it's OK to vote for actors, athletes

DepEd budget

Critical thinking

Priests stopped near Palace

A CAMEL WOULD have gotten through the eye of a needle before a group of priests would have been allowed to celebrate Mass in a church beside Malacañang.

Members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) yesterday prevented some 20 members of the clergy and a civil society group from reaching the Shrine of St. Michael the Archangel to hold a Mass for human rights victims.

The PSG blocked the group at the Arlegui gate at 2:30 p.m., saying higher-ups had told them "there would be no activity at the church that day."

Complicated

"It's complicated," Sgt. Marlon Festijo of the PSG said, when asked why they were giving the group a hard time.

"We have received intelligence reports of possible terroristic acts in the area within the day," Festijo said.

But the group would not be placated. Ruth Cervantes of the Movement of Concerned Citizens for Civil Liberties said they were holding the Mass "to pray for the victims of the Hacienda Luisita massacre."

"We are only going to pray, not hold a rally," Cervantes said.

Media, too

The PSG also blocked members of the media, saying there was no church activity to cover.

The President's guards relented, however, when activist priest Fr. Joe Dizon insisted on entering the gate an hour later.

"We are unarmed and we just want to pray for the human rights victims," Dizon said, adding that the state should not meddle in church affairs.

Dizon convinced fellow priests Jerry Sabado, Artemio Jusayan and Dionito Cabillas to change into their robes for the march to the church, where they were blocked a second time by policemen.

Not spared

Even parish priest Fr. Ernesto Cruz was not spared the strict security measures. When he let the group ride in the back of his pickup, policemen blocked the vehicle with concrete barriers.

"I do not feel respected at all," a frustrated Cruz said. "This is my parish after all and we do not have any plan to cause any trouble."

The cops finally allowed the group to proceed to the church, but not without a phalanx of antiriot policemen tailing them.

"In all my years as a Catholic school student and as a member of the Church, I have never experienced such repression," Cervantes said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

METRO

Pasig vendors take fight to City Hall



MUSIC AT THE TRACKS

Alma, Rudy strike back



Parañaque in search of site for homeless

Holiday decor from garbage heap

MetroBriefs

Death on railroad tracks

What's in a name?



Yule spirit takes over mall row

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TALK ABOUT AN EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Taking a respite from a raging tug-of-war with Cainta town officials for jurisdiction over the Sta. Lucia Grand Mall, Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio said he would allow Cainta to collect tax payments from mall owners in the mall—but only for the Christmas season.

Though the Supreme Court had already dismissed with finality an earlier motion for reconsideration it had filed on the question of jurisdiction, Cainta again filed another motion to revive its claim on the property.

In a press statement last week, Cainta officials said this legal move meant the status quo should be maintained, meaning mall owners should still pay taxes to Cainta.

But an official at Pasig City, who refused to be named, said mall owners should start paying taxes to Pasig City because "they already have a legal justification."

The official warned that paying to Cainta would not absolve mall owners of tax liabilities to Pasig City.

Eusebio, however, assured mall owners that he would not go after back payments should the high tribunal finally resolve that the contested property is within Pasig City.

Pasig City won a tax collection case against Sta. Lucia filed earlier in a regional trial court. The Court of Appeals later rejected the motion for reconsideration Cainta had filed.

Cainta later appealed the case to the Supreme Court, which denied its petition for review. It again filed a motion for reconsideration, which the high tribunal also denied in a decision dated Aug. 21. But another appeal filed by owners of the Sta. Lucia Mall who want to stay with Cainta [illegible] is still pending before the Second Division of the Supreme Court.

Cainta stands to lose P44 million in annual taxes if it loses the case.

WHAT'S INSIDE

No longer a has-Benz

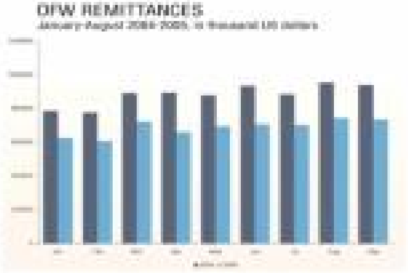
3 foreign firms eye local mine site

BUSINESS

OFW remittances surge 28% to $7.9B

As more Filipinos leave for higher paying jobs abroad

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS SAID REMITTANCES from overseas Filipino workers surged by 28 percent in the first nine months of the year to $7.9 billion, helping keep the country's dollar holdings at a healthy level.



Credit Suisse sees ratings upgrade for RP



Slower vehicle sales growth seen in '06

No longer a has-Benz

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Battle of mall sales

Money-go-round

Heard through the grapevine

Property firms' profits up







Property firms' profits up

Equitable-PCI Q1-Q3 profit jumps 47%

By Michelle V. Remo

EQUITABLE-PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, yesterday reported a net income of P1.77 billion for the first nine months of the year, representing a 47-percent jump from its performance in the same period last year.

Bank president and CEO Rene J. Buenaventura said in a statement that credit cards, remittance, trust banking, cash management, treasury and bancassurance businesses contributed to the firm's profit growth.

Higher earning assets along with enhanced yields from the bank's portfolio mix reduced the drag of bad assets and led to a 20-percent increase in gross interest income to P14.4 billion.

The bank added that its loan portfolio rose during the period despite the recent bulk sale of nearly P15.8 billion in non-performing assets.

Equitable-PCI's non-performing loan (NPL) ratio continued to decline to 4.66 percent from 8.98 percent in the same period last year, owing to enhanced credit processes, aggressive collection efforts and the closing of the second NPA sale worth P5.3 billion in the third quarter of the year.

Still, the bank continued to set aside loan-loss provisions amounting to P1.1 billion for the nine-month period ending September.

The bank said its total assets increased by 8 percent year-on-year to P327.1 billion.

Gokongwei units to sell more shares

JG Summit drops off investors' radar



Digitel widens 9-month loss

RP, Thailand sign pact for customs bureau links

OFW remittances surge 28% to $7.9B

Slower vehicle ...

Credit Suisse ...

Tax exemption sought for low income earners

Veer away from electronics, traders urged

Shares close lower

MANILA MINING PROPERTY

3 foreign firms eye local mine site





Security Bank profit up 41%

Disclosures

Cocktales

Business

ISM hikes stake in ETPI to 58%

Ongpin firm acquires Australia company's 40% holdings in telco

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

[illegible]

BSP expects '06 GIR to stay above $17B

[illegible]





THE FOUR Pevensie children

NARNIA fever

SO YOU'RE WATCHING "HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET of Fire" today (if you scored tickets, at least). But what will your fantasy-thirsty mind have to look forward to when the Triwizard Tournament is over?

Plenty. On top of that list is "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," the film that brings C.S. Lewis' children's classic to life.

2BU! visited Weta Studios in New Zealand and found out how Richard Taylor and his crew added more magic to this already enchanting story. We also have stories on books, websites and trivia that would keep you on a Narnia high for the next five weeks. You might want to join The Philippine Order of Narnians. We'll tell you exactly how—in this week's magic-packed 2BU! issue.



THE FILM crew in action



MANY believe that Aslan the lion is a symbolism for Jesus Christ.



ETERNAL winter...

2BU! EXCLUSIVE

The lion, the witch a

By Pam Pastor

WELLINGTON, NEW Zealand—"Come on in," Richard Taylor said, leading a pack of journalists who had flown in from all over the world for a tour of his Weta Workshop.

Weta, named after an insect that is found primarily in New Zealand, was established by Richard and his partner Tania Rodger 18 years ago. They had been active in the business for a number of years, but it was their work on the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy that did more than just put the spotlight on them. It also earned them an Oscar.

The award is well deserved. After all, Taylor and his crew worked on the trilogy for seven years and made a whopping 48,000 props for the films.

"The blessing that came to us in the form of 'Lord of the Rings' was incredible for a young group of film technicians. 'Lord of the Rings' was a pivotal point. It stamped New Zealand onto the world's map. And the Oscar served as an exclamation mark. But you get past the award and you're back at the beginning of another job," he said.

Now comes another daunting challenge after "The Lord of the Rings": working on the highly anticipated movie adaptation of C.S. Lewis' beloved classic, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

The movie follows the adventures of the four Pevensie siblings—Susan, Peter, Edmund and Lucy (played by Anna Popplewell, William Moseley, Skandar Keynes and Georgie Henley), as they step through an old wardrobe and into a new world called Narnia.

Director Andrew Adamson, most popularly known for his work on "Shrek," enlisted the services of the Weta team to create movie magic by providing the design of the creatures, costumes, insignia, heraldry, weapons and environmental pieces.

"To have Andrew call out of the blue and tell us that we might have the opportunity to work on another great piece of English literature of the same period was an incredible and amazing thing that we never thought would strike twice in our careers," said Taylor.

It took 110 Weta workers to finish everything they had to do for "The Lion." Taylor and his team provided an inside look at the work they did for Narnia during the tour of their studios.

Montage

After a quick introduction, Taylor screened a montage of the work Weta had done in the past years. Soft gasps could be heard in the dim boardroom as people recognized familiar scenes from popular movies. You may not know it, but chances are you've already appreciated the artistry of Weta on the big screen or on DVD. The studio's work can be seen in, among many others, "Master and Commander," "Hellboy," "Van Helsing," "The Last Samurai" and "Peter Pan."

Seeing the incredible movie memorabilia all over the place, it was hard to believe at first that so much film fantasy and enchantment had been created in the modest-looking Weta Workshop. But magic does happen there.

First stop was the Merchandising Area where collectibles were on display. The Aslan and White Witch bookends were especially beautiful. Taylor then led the group to the Chainmaille section where he explained how Weta has managed to come up with its own easier and more effective process of creating quality chainmaille. Weta can now supply chainmaille to TV, movie and stage companies.

Next stops were the Design Department (which Taylor called Weta's nerve center), Welding Bay and Studio, the previous projects display area, the Sculpting Room and the Molding and Casting Room.

A lot of time was spent at the Weapons Wall, with Taylor demonstrating the logic behind the dimensions and the materials used for each weapon in "Narnia." "The blade had its chased motifs and details that were significant to the characters and what they stood for.

"C.S. Lewis drew from an amazing collaborative world of mythological culture. We used that as an inspiration. Every single motif you can see is representative of a certain piece of writing that C.S. Lewis did," Taylor explained.

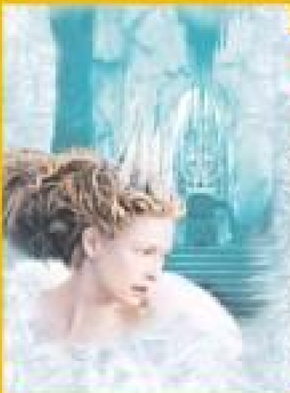
Most difficulty

But it's not as simple as it sounds. It took 220 drawings before they decided on the look of their White Witch. But even that was beaten by the Centaur, the creature that gave them the most difficulty. Still, Taylor speaks of the half-man, half-horse with a tinge of affection.

"What an amazing opportunity to design what is arguably the most well-known mythological creature. They can fight like no one you've ever seen."

Weta also faced another big issue. "The children grow at an alarming rate. We ended up making the boy's armor three times," he said, pointing to a statue wearing an impressive armor of red and silver.

Of their extraordinary attention to every tiny detail, "Some people say, isn't this too detailed? No one will see it," said Taylor. "But if movies are taken seriously by the people who make them, they're taken seriously by the people who watch



IT TOOK 220 drawings before the final look of the White Witch was decided.



WELCOME to Weta Workshop



THE SCULPTURE room



COOL COLLECTIBLES: "The Chronicles of Narnia" maquettes made by Weta



BEAUTIFUL Aslan and White Witch bookends



THIS wardrobe will lead the four children into an unforgettable adventure in Narnia.

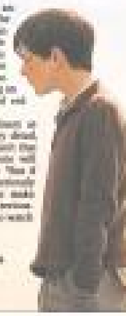


A CHUNK of the Weta tour was spent discussing swords and weapons.



A MAQUETTE for King Kong the movie





FACE to face with Aslan

STYLE



thanks to the White Witch

and Weta

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wardrobe.
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he Chronicles
Narnia'



PETER Pevensie

n. [We] never short-change a client. Our
test wish is for the audience to enjoy it."
hen asked to compare the work they did
Lord of the Rings" and for Narnia, Taylor
"Lord of the Rings' was three times big-
n scale, but our effort for Narnia required
intensity because of the lack of time. We
ed on Narnia for just under three years,
posed to Lord of the Ring's seven years."
ylor ultimately credits Weta's success to
attitude of his crew. "In New Zealand,
e is a culture of can-do mentality. The
g people we ultimately have the benefit
rking with throw themselves at any task.
rick for Tania and I is to make them real-
hat no matter how small the focus of the
, every single thread that they weave in-
e tapestry of the film is an important en-
or. And if they leave a thread out, or
se in turn, the tapestry will be thread-
."

mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.
ph



A CONCEPT for the White Witch

How to become a Narnia know-it-all

Or at least sound like one

WE FLEXED OUR GOOGLING, reading and digging muscles to find Narnia trivia that you can amaze (or annoy) your friends with.

- There has always been controversy about the order the books are to be read. C.S. Lewis wrote the books in the following order: "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "Prince Caspian," "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," "The Horse and His Boy," "The Silver Chair," "The Last Battle" and "The Magician's Nephew."
- They were published in the following order: "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "Prince Caspian," "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," "The Silver Chair," "The Horse and His Boy," "The Magician's Nephew" and "The Last Battle."
- But C.S. Lewis wanted them read in this order: "The Magician's Nephew," "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "The Horse and His Boy," "Prince Caspian," "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," "The Silver Chair" and "The Last Battle."
- Clives Staples Lewis never liked his name. When he was 4, he went to his mother and said, "I am Jackie." Since then, he was known as Jack to his friends.
- When they were young, C.S. Lewis and his good friend J.R.R. Tolkien, author of "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, were part of the Inklings, an informal writers' club. The members of this club regularly met at a local pub to discuss story ideas.
- Although Pauline Baynes illustrated all seven books in "The Chronicles of Narnia," she only met C.S. Lewis twice.
- Aslan means "lion" in Turkish.
- There were rumors that Michelle Pfeiffer was offered the role of the White Witch, but she refused because of family obligations. People behind the movie have denied the rumors, however, saying Tilda Swinton was the first choice for the role.
- Co-producer Douglas Gresham is C.S. Lewis' stepson.
- The movie was filmed in New Zealand and the Czech Republic.
- Tilda Swinton, who plays the White Witch, hadn't read the book prior to filming.
- The movie had two fake working titles—"The Hundred Year Winter" and "Paravel."
- Filmmakers asked if they could bring in 12 reindeers to New Zealand to pull the White Witch's sled. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry did not give them permission, fearing the entry of the potentially deadly Q Fever. Eight wolves were brought in instead for the filming.
- Director Andrew Adamson first read "The Chronicles of Narnia" as an 8-year-old.

Pam Pastor